

CONGRATULATING OFFICER
DUANE HARPER

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I rise to congratulate Officer Duane Harper of Owensboro, KY. Officer Harper was recently awarded the Owensboro Police Department's citation for officer of the year.

Officer Harper, a vehicle crash reconstructionist, is a 14-year veteran with an eye for detail and a steady, meticulous investigative technique. As a reconstructionist, Harper is called on to conduct investigations not only for his department, but others as well. Chief John Kazlauskas describes Harper as committed to conducting his investigations thoroughly and professionally.

The officer of the year award is given annually to an officer selected solely by the Chief of Police based on performance and merit. Officer Harper was also the recipient of the Chief's Award, the department's second highest honor.

It is very important to have members of our law enforcement dedicated to the safety and well being of our communities. I am very proud to have Officer Harper as a member of local law enforcement in Kentucky. I heartily applaud his hard work and commitment to serving his community.

I hope that you will join me today in both recognizing and congratulating Officer Harper in his achievement. He serves as an example to the rest of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. I wish him continued success in the future.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF MERCER,
NORTH DAKOTA

• Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a community in North Dakota that is celebrating its 100th anniversary. On July 1-3, the residents of Mercer, ND, will celebrate their community's founding and history.

Mercer is a small town of 86 citizens in west-central North Dakota, encircled by rolling prairie and enchanting lakes. Despite its small size, Mercer holds an important place in North Dakota's history, one that long predates the establishment of the town. The community was at the crossroads of major events that shaped the early Dakota experience. The cultures of three Native American tribes converged here at Prophet's Mountain, and their relics still dot the prairies. Early fur traders traipsed the Coteau du Missouri, skirting Medicine Hill while on expeditions between Canada and the Missouri River. Major wagon trains, seeking an overland route to Montana gold fields, rutted its terrain. Trails traversed the community, some reaching as far north as Canada. At the close of the nineteenth century, lush rangeland at the foot of Prophet's Mountain beckoned pioneer ranchers along the Missouri River bottomland. Among them was William Henry Harrison Mercer, who drove his cattle herds to this area. The largest influx of new citizens the com-

munity would ever witness—the homesteaders—then followed.

At the behest of the Northern Pacific Railway Company, the town of Mercer was platted July 24, 1905. The first rail traffic arrived on November 7, and construction of a depot followed in 1907. Mercer Township was organized in 1908, and three supervisors, a clerk, treasurer, assessor, two justices, two constables, a road overseer and a commission of conciliation were all elected.

Like many other plains country towns, Mercer has witnessed and withstood major upheavals in its struggle to survive. Other than its fine citizens, Mercer's proudest asset has been Brush Lake. As early as 1926, community leaders with vision established the Mercer-Brush Lake Community Association, an organization dedicated to the protection and preservation of a serene, natural recreational resource for the public good. That association was reorganized in 1958 as the Brush Lake Community Association, with a membership spanning the entire region.

I ask the Senate to join me in congratulating Mercer, ND, and its residents on their first 100 years and in wishing them well through the next century. By honoring Mercer and all the other historic small towns of North Dakota, we keep the pioneering frontier spirit alive for future generations. It is places such as Mercer that have helped to shape this country into what it is today, which is why this fine community is deserving of our recognition.

Mercer has a proud past and a bright future.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROLETTE,
NORTH DAKOTA

• Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a community in North Dakota that is celebrating its 100th anniversary. On July 1-3, the residents of Rolette, ND, will gather to celebrate the community's centennial.

Rolette is located in the northern part of North Dakota with a population of 538. Although its population is small, Rolette holds an important place in North Dakota's history. A post office named after the nearby Willow Creek, along with a junction on the Great Northern Railroad, fueled the city's growth, which peaked in 1970 with 704 people. Rolette was named after the fur trader, Joseph Rolette, who lived from 1820 to 1871.

Located in the scenic Turtle Mountains, Rolette boasts exceptional outdoor activities. A healthy number of lakes sprinkle the region, which provide for fishing opportunities and an abundance of waterfowl for hunters and birdwatchers in the fall. Many community members enjoy the nearby golf course or the International Peace Gardens in the warmer months. Today, Rolette is home to two cafes, a clinic, a bank, and much more.

In recognition of the community's centennial, eight murals were painted by local artisans on the exterior of the

Rolette Mall. Five additional murals recognizing the community's dedication to volunteerism were recently completed. Rolette's lively centennial celebration will include an all school reunion, a civic parade, dances, and an air and car show.

I ask the Senate to join me in congratulating Rolette, ND, and its residents on their first 100 years and in wishing them well through the next century. By honoring Rolette and all the other historic small towns of North Dakota, we keep the pioneering tradition alive for future generations. Places such as Rolette shaped this country into what it is today, which is why this fine community deserves our recognition.

Rolette has a proud past and a bright future.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ANTLER,
NORTH DAKOTA

• Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a community in North Dakota that is celebrating its 100th anniversary. On July 8 and 9, the residents of Antler, ND, will gather to celebrate their community's history and founding.

Antler is a small town in the northern part of North Dakota, with a population of approximately 40. Despite its small size, Antler holds an important place in North Dakota's history. It began around 1889 when settlers Mr. and Mrs. Jack Schell; Jack, Mike, and Dan Manning; and Robert Wright first populated this region. By 1898, Duncan McLean had established a post office, and in 1905, Antler was incorporated as a city.

Antler was named after Antler Creek, one of two tributaries, which resemble a deer's horns, branching from the Mouse River. Today, Mayor Tom Arneson leads this enthusiastic community. Currently, Antler is known around the State for its unique Town Square and its close proximity to the Canadian border. Residents of this peaceful town enjoy spending time outdoors, hunting, and fishing.

I ask the Senate to join me in congratulating Antler, ND, and its residents on their first 100 years and in wishing them well through the next century. By honoring Antler and all the other historic small towns of North Dakota, we keep the pioneering frontier spirit alive for future generations. It is places such as Antler that have helped to shape this country into what it is today, which is why Antler is deserving of our recognition.

Antler has a proud past and a bright future.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF
ROCKLAKE, NORTH DAKOTA

• Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a community in North Dakota that is celebrating its 100th anniversary. On July 8-10, the residents of Rocklake, ND, will celebrate their community's history and founding.